



STATE OF WASHINGTON

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Walla Walla Veterans Home**

**92 Wainwright Drive • Walla Walla, Washington 99362 • 509-394-6800**

January 8, 2021

Dear Walla Walla Veterans Home Residents, Families and Resident Representatives:

As we continue to provide updates on our COVID-19 testing and results, we are writing to let you know that two of our residents have received positive COVID-19 test results. The residents are isolated and staff are monitoring them closely to ensure they receive the care they need. The results will be confirmed with additional testing to rule out false positives.

As we have mentioned before, all residents in the affected areas will be tested and retested every 5-7 days until 14 days have passed without a new resident positive. Additional environmental cleaning continues to take place and the Walla Walla Veterans Home will conduct enhanced surveillance, including 4-hour symptom and temperature checks, for residents in the affected areas for the next 14 days.

We are working with the Walla Walla County Department of Community Health and following guidance from CDC, CMS and our State Department of Health to ensure we are safeguarding our residents and staff.

We are asking our staff to pay close attention to whether they have any symptoms, including the presence of a fever. As part of our ongoing screening process, all staff are screened upon arrival at work each day. This process includes a series of questions around whether symptoms are present and a temperature check. In addition, staff are asked to report any symptoms that occur after coming to work.

The Walla Walla Veterans Home, is following guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service, which requires regular testing of all long-term care facility staff, currently the rate of positivity in Walla Walla County requires staff to be tested twice each week. This may result in the identification of asymptomatic carriers, but is an important tool in defending against COVID-19.

Victor Odiakosa  
Interim Administrator  
Walla Walla Veterans Home